Advanced clinical training program for foreign dental practitioners

Osaka University Dental Hospital is designated as the institute for “Advanced Clinical Training” for foreign dental practitioners by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan. Advanced clinical training is conducted under the direct guidance and supervision of an instructor certified by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare. Under Japanese law, one who does not hold a Japanese dental license, even if his/her purpose of immigration is training in dental/medical treatment, can engage only in observation-study or in the training of the operation of instruments in a hospital setting without patients. However, once the foreign practitioner has been granted the permit for advanced clinical training program, he/she may receive clinical training which includes diagnosis and treatment of patients.

The subject of this program is a person who has qualifications in a foreign country equivalent to a Japanese dental license. Therefore, an official dental license is required of citizens of those countries which have a licensing system for dental practitioners. For citizens of those countries where there is no licensing system for dental practitioners by the nation, states, or other public authorities but graduation from dental school permits the practice of dentistry, a diploma from a dental school is required.

The conditions of the permit for advanced clinical training

The conditions to be met in order to obtain the permit for advanced clinical training are as follows:

1. To have as one’s purpose for entering Japan the mastery of knowledge and skills related to dental treatment.

   Those who arrived in Japan with the purpose of entering Japanese dental schools or in order to receive dental training in Japanese hospitals meet this condition. Note that those without the appropriate immigration status through which they can receive dental training must amend their status before applying for this program.

2. To have the knowledge and skills concerning dentistry required to be engaged in the dental professions.

3. To have in excess of three years’ experience in a dental practice after receiving the dental license or its equivalent in his/her home country.

   The conditions in 2 and 3 imply that the foreign practitioner must conduct a dental practice for more than three years after qualifying as a dental
practitioner in his/her country, i.e., receiving the equivalent of a Japanese license. The three-year requirement noted above denotes a period in which the foreign dental practitioner is actually performing clinical dentistry, therefore, the period of study abroad or laboratory research are not included to fulfill the requirement.

4. To have sufficient ability to understand and communicate in Japanese or in English to allow the pursuit of advanced clinical training.

5. To have sufficient means to compensate for any damages inflicted on a patient.

6. To be over the age of 20.

7. To not be a legally incompetent person or a legally quasi-incompetent person, both under the law of Japan and his/her home country.

8. To not be deaf, mute, or blind.

9. To not be a person who has received an order for suspension of the dental practice in the country where one holds a dental license (generally, the home country).

10. To not be mentally deranged, or addicted to a narcotic, marijuana, or opium.

11. To not be a person who has been sentenced to a penalty more serious than a fine both under the criminal law of Japan and his/her home country.

12. To not be a person who has committed a crime or wrongful deed concerning dental affairs.

The permit will be revoked should the holder fail to fulfill any of the above conditions or should the holder violate this advanced clinical training system.

**The term of permit**
The term of permit is the period which has been designated by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare as necessary to complete the advanced clinical training; it is confined to two years.

**Documents to be submitted for the permit**
1. Application for permit for advanced clinical training.
   A revenue stamp in the denomination of 15,100 Japanese yen and one photograph must be affixed to the application form.

2. The original and one photocopy of passport, certificate of alien registration, or certificate of voyage.
   The original will be returned immediately upon the confirmation of authenticity
by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

3. Documents which certifies that the applicant will return to his/her country, issued by a public agency of the home country.

The advanced clinical training system has been sanctioned as an exception to The Dental Practitioners Law of Japan, viewed in terms of international cooperation, and is not intended to provide opportunities for permanent employment in Japan as a dental practitioner. Therefore, the applicant must prove that he/she will return to their home country and engage in dental practice there upon completion of the program.

4. The original and one photocopy of the dental practitioners license.

The original license will be returned immediately upon confirmation by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare that the photocopy submitted is official and true. If the applicant is from a country which does not issue dental licenses, he/she must prove that they may be lawfully engaged in the practice of dentistry in their country. Specifically, the applicant must submit a public certificate, such as one published by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of their home country, which states that dental licenses are not issued by their government, and, in addition they must submit a certificate providing their right to engage in dental practice, such as a diploma (the original and one photocopy) from their dental school.

5. Documentation providing at least three years’ clinical experience.

Documentation providing at least three years’ clinical experience as a dental practitioner after receiving the dental license (or equivalent) is required. The applicant must submit a certificate regarding the duration of their employment, issued by the director of the dental/medical facilities where they have experience in the practice of dentistry.


The applicant must submit documentation providing an ability to understand and communicate in Japanese or English which allows the pursuit of advanced clinical training. Examples of documentation providing Japanese language proficiency include:

1) A grade of the second rank or above on “Japanese Language Proficiency Test” conducted by the Japan International Educational Association and the International Exchange Foundation

2) Attainment of level five or above on the “General Evaluation Standard of Japanese Language Ability” conducted by JICA
Those applicants not able to demonstrate proficiency in Japanese must submit a certificate providing ability in English. Examples of documentation include:
3) The scores of the TOEFL examination (scores of 510 and above)
4) Certification issued by a public agency providing that he/she passed a dental practitioners examination in English
5) Diploma or certificate of degree from a school of dentistry in which courses are conducted in English

7. Insurance policy and stipulation providing the applicant’s ability to provide compensation for injury (or a certificate of the insurance policy).  
The applicant must submit proof of insurance which is effective in Japan and which compensates for injury to patients. The policy must provide compensation of at least 50,000,000 Japanese yen per accident. A stipulation that insurance coverage applies to claims for damages which are filed up to 5 years after the conclusion of the period of advanced clinical training must be included in the policy.

8. A medical certificate issued by a medical doctor.

9. Certificate from the home country providing applicant’s eligibility for the program in advanced clinical training.  
The applicant must submit documents issued by a government office or other official agency of the home country attesting that the following items do not apply to them:
1) A person who has received an order of suspension of dental practice under the laws of the home country and who is not permitted to engage in dental practice in the home country.
2) A person who has been declared legally incompetent or quasi-incompetent under the laws of a foreign country.
3) A person who has been sentenced, under the laws of the home country, to a penalty more serious than a fine.

10. Statement certifying that the applicant is not ineligible to pursue advanced clinical training in Japan.

11. Documentation regarding program of advanced clinical training and written consent.

12. Two photographs (full-faced without a hat, 3 cm x 2 cm, taken not more than six months prior to the date of application).
**Instructors**
The following fields are covered by dental practitioners certified as an instructor to conduct advanced clinical training.
Preventive Dentistry, Restorative Dentistry, Endodontology, Periodontology, Prosthodontology, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Orthodontics, Pediatric Dentistry, Oral Radiology, Special Care Dentistry

**Contact information**
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Application form for permission for advanced clinical training can be downloaded from the link below: